United Nations A/C.3/65/L.12

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
6 October 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 27 (b)
Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Philippines and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution

Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[1] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[2] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in which it recognized the collective responsibility of Governments to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level, and stressing the duty of Member States to achieve greater justice and equality for all, in particular persons with disabilities,

Encouraged by the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, calling for enhanced and concrete efforts to realize the Goals for all, including persons with disabilities,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities are often subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination and are still largely invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting that the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[1] and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium

[1] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).
[2] Resolution 48/96, annex.
[3] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

10-56942 (E) 081010

Please recycle

Development Goals, provide an opportunity to strengthen the policies and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities,[3] thereby contributing to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Noting also that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular for developing countries,

Concerned that the lack of data and information on disability and the situation of persons with disabilities at the national level contributes to the invisibility of persons with disabilities in official statistics, presenting an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that is inclusive of persons with disabilities,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Keeping the promise: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond";[4]

2. *Takes note* of the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General[4] that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[3] provide comprehensive coverage of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities, and that an update of the World Programme of Action[1] should reflect the holistic and comprehensive human rights approach set forth in the Convention;

3. *Also takes note* of the mention in the report of the Secretary-General[4] that the World Programme of Action[1] could be updated in order to more fully reflect the core principles that animate the current international disability rights framework, including respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons; full and effective participation and inclusion in society; respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity; equality of opportunity; accessibility; equality between men and women; and respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities;

4. *Further takes note* of the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General[4] that the inclusion of the principles and goals of the Convention should guide the revision of the World Programme of Action[1] and the Standard Rules[2] in the development of domestic disability law and policy;

5. *Welcomes with appreciation* the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",[5] particularly the recognition that policies and actions must also focus on persons with disabilities, so that they benefit from progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

6. *Urges* Member States, and invites international organizations and regional organizations, including regional integration organizations, financial

[4] A/65/173.

[5] Resolution 65/1.

institutions, the private sector and civil society, in particular organizations representing persons with disabilities, as appropriate, to promote the realization of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, inter alia, by explicitly including disability issues and persons with disabilities in national plans and tools designed to contribute to the full realization of the Goals;

7. *Urges* the United Nations system to make a concerted effort to integrate disability issues into its work, and in this regard encourages the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to continue working to ensure that development programmes, including Millennium Development Goals policies, processes and mechanisms, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

8. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that their international cooperation, including through international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

9. *Calls upon* Governments and United Nations bodies and agencies to include disability issues and persons with disabilities in reviewing progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to step up efforts to include in their assessment the extent to which persons with disabilities are able to benefit from efforts to achieve the Goals;

10. *Also calls upon* Governments to enable persons with disabilities to participate as agents and beneficiaries of development, in particular in all efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals, by ensuring that programmes and policies, namely on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of the participation of persons with disabilities at all levels of policymaking and development, which is critical to informing policymakers on the situation of persons with disabilities, the barriers they may face and ways to overcome obstacles to the full and equal enjoyment of their rights, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for all, including persons with disabilities, and to their socio-economic advancement;

12. *Encourages* international cooperation in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, including through global partnerships for development, which are crucial for the realization of the Goals for all, in particular for persons with disabilities;

13. *Also encourages* Governments to develop and accelerate the exchange of information, guidelines and standards, best practices, legislative measures and government policies regarding the situation of persons with disabilities and disability issues, in particular as they relate to inclusion and accessibility;

14. *Calls upon* Governments to build a knowledge base of data and information about the situation of persons with disabilities that could be used to enable development policy planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation to be disability-sensitive, in particular in the realization of the Millennium

Development Goals for persons with disabilities, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to disseminate widely and promote the use of the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics*[6] and the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*[7] and to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, including the provision of assistance for capacity-building of Member States, in particular to developing countries;

(b) To submit during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly information on the progress made towards ensuring that all Millennium Development Goal targets and indicators identify, monitor and evaluate the impact of related policies and programming on the situation of persons with disabilities;

(c) To convene a high-level meeting on strengthening efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

[6] ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Y/10 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.15).

[7] ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8).